



St. Louis Suburban Council of the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION



Recipient of the Honor Council & Show Me Awards

Summer 2008

Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to a new year with the St. Louis Suburban Council of IRA. What a great year we have planned for you! We will be hearing presentations from the Missouri STARR teachers on Marzano's High Yield Instructional Strategies, Lori Oczkus on Reciprocal Teaching, Pat Wolfe on Brain Research, and Vickie Grove, a Missouri children's author, on writing with children. For the details, please read more of this newsletter and future newsletters.

Like most of our members, summer was a busy time for our officers and board members as we planned for the new year. Part of that planning process included strategic planning with the executive board. Two new goals that you will see reflected in our programs are "to provide a **variety** of opportunities for **ongoing** ... professional development." We hope you will extend your learning beyond our four formal presentations by signing up for a professional book study and/or a literacy conversations group which is a follow-up session to a general meeting in which we discuss initial implementation and learn new information. We have known for many years that one-shot professional development is not as successful as on-going professional development. Beginning this year, we are offering multiple opportunities (on a single topic) to learn together and share new ideas.

Our strategic planning work also reiterated that the primary goal of our organization is to provide service to you, the member. At The Booksource workshops this summer, I had the opportunity to chat with members about their requests for member services. At our first meeting, we will be giving all members the opportunity to tell us what services you would like us to provide and how you would like to receive them. If you have strong feelings about this topic or simply want to chat with me about this or another topic, I would love to hear from you at barkermaryjo@rockwood.k12.mo.us or 636-349-1342.

Welcome, again, to this new year. We hope you will gather together with us, learn together with us, and celebrate together with us as we live what we in the Greater St. Louis Area know – that **READING** is the **GATEWAY TO SUCCESS!**

Mary Jo Barker

President

St. Louis Suburban Council of the
International Reading Association

barkermaryjo@rockwood.k12.mo.us

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Something Old, Something New: Ideas on How to Use Running Records This Year

by

Dr. Sam Bommarito- Fontbonne University

Fall 08

As always summer's gone by far too quickly. I find myself writing the start of year column for the Suburban newsletter again (this will be my 3rd one- time really does fly!). This year I want to talk about a topic that proved of interest to many of the teachers attending this year's Summer Institute at Fontbonne. What can you do (should you do) with all those running records many of you take? For a quick review of what running records are about and how to take them, see the definitive works by Clay and Fountas and Pinnell.

I want to talk about one important addition we make at Fontbonne to the typical Running Record chart. The top of our chart looks like this:

WORD ANALYSIS SHEET
MARK WHAT THEY USE
ONLY MARK BME IF THEY USE V

===WORD===	M	S	V	B	M	E	===WORD===	M	S	V	B	M	E

Notice that after the place for the MSV analysis, there are the letters BME. That's the something old! B stands for Beginning, M stands for Middle and E stands for end. What is recorded here is what parts of the word students use when they do try the visual cueing system. It's been over thirty years since I learned that children first learn to use beginning sounds to figure out words, later they use beginning and ending sounds and at the most advanced stage they learn middle sounds. (How many of us have seen beginning writers represent a whole word with a single letter, usually the first letter of a word?). What this addition to the analysis chart does is to make sure the teacher systematically tracks what kinds of information the student uses when they do use the visual cues (the sound/symbol cues provided by the letters). It is only marked if the student uses a visual cue.

A simple way to analyze all the information in this sheet is to figure out the overall percentages for each category. Let's say you analyzed 25 miscues by Suzie. Suzie used meaning and syntax 14 times. $14/25 = 50\%$ of the time. Suzie used visual 3 times. $3/25 = 12\%$. Of those 3 visual cues she used 3 beginning letters ($3/3 = 100\%$, no middle sounds ($0/3 = 0\%$) and 1 ending sound ($1/3 = 33\%$). From this we see that Suzie relies more on meaning and syntax clues, makes little use of letter clues, but when she does make use of letter clues she tends to try to use first sounds.

This quick analysis provides us a lot of information about what we can do to help Suzie. Suzie needs to learn to make more use of the information provided by the letters in the word. She needs to ALSO pay more attention to the ends of words. We could do things like making and breaking, Elkonin boxes, and prompting near point of error. All these techniques are described in detail in books by Clay and Fountas & Pinnell. All of them would help bring more balance to how Suzie uses the three cueing systems.

I hope you find that the addition of BME (something old) to the MSV analysis (something new) provides a useful tool in the coming year. Collecting running records without SYSTEMATICALLY looking at the results does not provide much insight into how the child uses the cueing systems. Taking the very quick and simple step of looking for patterns (what percent of the time does the child use each cueing system, how does the child use visual information), helps the teacher help the child. I wish you all well in the coming school year and I hope this gives you some food for thought about how to make more use of all that valuable information many of you have in the form of running records.



Published by Heinemann

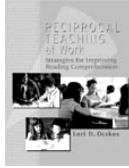
St. Louis Suburban Council's Professional Development Opportunities

FALL PROFESSIONAL BOOK STUDY –

September through November, 2008

Reciprocal Teaching at Work, by Lori Oczkus,
Published by IRA (www.reading.org).

Participate in this book study to learn about Reciprocal Teaching or to further your basic knowledge of these powerful strategies that can increase your students' comprehension in as little as 15 days. Purchase your own book through IRA. Meeting sessions will be planned around the schedules of the participants.



FALL WINE & WISDOM EVENT

Literacy Conversations, October 14, 2008

Attend this follow-up session on the Marzano strategies to share your initial classroom use of the strategy and learn new information from the STARR teacher who presented your session in September. You will register for this event at the September 23rd council meeting.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING-

Lori Oczkus, November 10, 2008

Co-Sponsored With Fontbonne University
Reciprocal Teaching at Work:
NEW Strategies/Lessons for Dramatically
Improving Reading Comprehension
(for elementary and middle school)



Lori spoke to our organization in January 2007, and members were excited to learn the Reciprocal Teaching (RT) strategies. Since then, Lori continues to further her work in this area. Come learn these simple, yet powerful strategies or further your knowledge of RT with NEW techniques for implementation. You won't want to miss this dynamic, national presenter and these powerful strategies that can increase your students' comprehension in as little as 15 days!

WINTER WINE & WISDOM EVENT

Literacy Conversations

These discussion groups will focus their conversation on implementation of the Reciprocal Teaching Strategies. Participants will share experiences of classroom implementation and learn from each other's work with these powerful strategies as well as revisiting sections of Lori's book as needed. Meeting sessions will begin

following Lori's visit, and they will be planned around the schedules of the participants. Members will register for Literacy Conversations at the meeting on November 10th.

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING -

Pat Wolfe, January 26, 2009

Brain Based Learning At All Levels
(for elementary and middle school)

Pat is a national presenter and author of two books on brain based learning. Her books include Brain Matters: Translating Research into Classroom Practice and Building the Reading Brain, PreK – 3 which she co-authored with Pamela Nevills. She makes brain research more interesting and captivating than that novel that you simply can't put down. You will leave this session with ideas/techniques that you will implement in your classroom the very next day.



WINTER PROFESSIONAL BOOK STUDY

Brain Matters: Translating Research into
Classroom Practice by Pat Wolfe

Participate in this book study to further your knowledge of brain research and learn the implications for your classroom practice. Participants will purchase own book. Meeting sessions will be planned around the schedules of the participants. Sessions will begin following Pat's visit. Participants will register at the January 26 meeting.

SPRING BANQUET

Vickie Grove, Missouri Children's Author

Date to be determined in April, 2009.

Vickie is a prolific author who has written 11 chapter books. Eight of them are middle grades or young adult books, but her ideas about writing are appropriate for all levels. Vickie is an author who loves to work with teachers and students of all grade levels to improve student writing. She will share several personal writing techniques that are "tried and true" for helping students of all ages write and write well. But, Vickie is more than an author. She is an inspiration to all. Hear how she has reinvented herself professionally with her new science fiction series. Listen as she shares her personal story of challenges and graces while caring for her aging parents. Her presentation will teach you techniques for improving students' writing while inspiring you personally.



St. Louis Suburban Council's First Annual Summer Workshops

St. Louis Suburban Reading Association wants to thank Neil Jaffe, President of The Booksource, for giving us an opportunity to hear his staff share great, new books and share comprehension strategies at our first annual summer workshops. "Exciting New Books Too Good To Miss" and "Energize Your Comprehension Instruction With Children's Books" were the workshops presented by Cheryl Dickemper, Purchasing Manager, and Amanda Ehll, Collection Development Specialist, on June 10 & 11 and July 22 & 23. Katie Stuckenschneider, Sales Support Specialist, set-up our workshops and compiled book bags filled with literature and articles as gifts for the attendees. We had 70 participants for these workshops. Evaluation comments by participants were very favorable and enthusiastic. Participants received comprehensive lists of K-8 book titles for teaching the strategies of predicting, summarizing, connecting, questioning, inferring, and imaging. Besides scheduling summer 2009 workshops, St. Louis Suburban is considering a December 2008 event for our members at The Booksource. December is the month when new titles arrive at The Booksource.

The Booksource is located at 1230 Macklind Avenue, St. Louis 63110. Phone number is 800-444-0435, and email is www.booksource.com. The Booksource gives all Missouri teachers a 30% discount on books besides free shipping. You may also find information about the best and newest trade books to use in your classroom by using Booknotes. To subscribe to Booksource's monthly newsletter, email booknotes@booksource.com. Thank you to Carla Nieman for organizing this event.

Some of the Books shared:

Kindergarten and 1st grades

I Love My New Toy! by Mo Willems. This book has dialogue that is good for readers' theatre.

The Pigeon Wants a Puppy by Mo Willems

Mo Willems has a website on step-by-step how to draw his characters.

Not A Stick by Antoinette Portis.

Excellent for imagination.

Come and Play by Ayana Lowe

Strong text for visualizing.

2nd grade

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman. Good for predicting.

The Best Story by Eileen Spinelli. Good for questioning.

2nd to 4th grades

The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry

This is a parody on classic books. The novel is about a home that is not happy. The parents are screaming to get rid of the children and the children are trying to get rid of the parents.

Cowboy and Octopus by Jon Scieszka, Library Congress gave him an award of being Ambassador for Children's Literature. This book is about friendships, and it is geared to boys.

3rd to 7th grades

The Mysterious Benedict Society And The Perilous Journey by Trenton Lee Stewart.

Good for gifted and talented.

4th grade and up

The Arrival By Shaun Tan. This is a graphic novel and wordless book of a man coming to the United States as an immigrant.

Weather by Seymour Simon.

The illustrations are good for explaining weather. The book can be paired with a fiction book.

Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln by Doreen Rappaport. February 12, 2009 is Lincoln's bicentennial.

5th to 8th grades

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules by Jeff Kinney. This is for boys. The book occurs the summer after sixth grade. Great book for a laugh. Diary of the written word and good for reluctant readers.

The Merchant of Death by D. J. MacHale. This is a great boy book. It is about a 14 year old boy. Fantasy book. A lot of books are coming out as graphic novels. Boy books are coming out as graphic. Kids familiar with the text, like to reread the book as a graphic novel.

6th to 12th grades

Peeled by Joan Bauer. Good play on words. Middle school readers will hear about the process of writing. The reader will see the process of writing: investigating, writing, editing, and publishing. Writers will appreciate.

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

17 year old boy imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler.

Plan to join us at our summer workshops next year.

St. Louis Suburban Council Literacy Mini-Grant

The St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association (IRA) administers a mini-grant program for literacy-based instructional activities in the communication arts curriculum. Mini-grants are available to IRA member teachers and administrators in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

Projects funded by the mini-grant program are intended to enhance the literacy instruction in classrooms for students to improve academic achievement in communication arts – reading, writing, speaking, listening, information literacy. Mini-grant projects must be aligned to the Missouri Show-Me Standards and the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's). The mini-grant program targets educators who are interested in strengthening their instruction by infusing literature and/or trade books into curriculum content areas. Applicants should plan a mini-grant project that is both needed and timely. Instructional creativity and innovation are encouraged.

The application deadline for the spring semester is November 19, 2008. All grant funds must be spent by May 27, 2009 and final reports submitted by June 12, 2009. Applicants will be notified about the status of their mini-grants for the spring semester by December 12, 2008. Applications will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Suburban Council of the IRA who will make the decision of mini-grant awards.

Who Can Apply

Teachers/teams of teachers and/or administrators in grades PreK – 12 who are members of the St. Louis Suburban Council of the International Reading Association can apply for a literacy mini-grant. Mini-grants are limited to one person/team per year with priority being given to those applying for funds for the first time.

Application Deadline

The deadline for next spring 2009 is November 19, 2008. All applications must be received or postmarked by the deadline date to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For Further Information

For complete mini-grant guidelines and an application, contact Dr. Betty Porter Walls at drbpwalls@earthlink.net, or Lillian Katzenmeyer at lk Katzenmeyer@aol.com.

The applicants and winner of the 2007-2008 mini-grant will be notified prior to the September 23rd council meeting. The St. Louis Suburban Council Literacy Mini-Grant will be awarded at the September 23rd council meeting.

FALL PROFESSIONAL BOOK STUDY September through November

***Reciprocal Teaching at Work* by Lori Oczkus.**

Participate in this book study to learn about Reciprocal Teaching or to further basic knowledge of these powerful strategies that can increase your students' comprehension in as little as 15 days. Meeting sessions will begin in September and be planned around the schedules of the participants.

TO REGISTER: E-mail Mary Jo Barker at barkermaryjo@rockwood.k12.mo.us by September 2, 2008. Please include the subject and grade/level you teach, your phone number, and preferred meeting times. Order your book now from IRA at www.reading.org so that you will have it for the first meeting.

St. Louis Suburban Council Community Service Projects

St. Louis Suburban Council will be very involved in our community this year. Several projects are planned, and we invite you to participate.

Take a peak at what is planned (more information will be provided in future newsletters)!

1. FAMILY READING

We will continue to support the First Book through Penny-A-Page. We invite you to sign up your school and/or individual class to participate in this read-a-thon. Contact Rose Mary Green for details—rmgreen@midwest.net.

Want to give your school's and/or classroom's newsletter more literacy tips, but are out of ideas and time? Well, we are asking everyone to send us their well-tryed tips for parents on how to read with and to children. We will compile them, and send the file to everyone that requests the ideas. Send info to vickyjapan01@hotmail.com



2. ADVOCATE LITERACY READING

Washington University is partnering again with the National Endowment of the Arts to sponsor the Big Read. To Kill A Mockingbird will be read throughout schools, libraries and communities. This is a chance to join a reading group and to reread a great book. More details will follow in January.

3. LITERACY IN THE COMMUNITY

Can you imagine a world without books? In some of our own urban schools the only books that children have

in their homes are phone books. Let us make an impact and help to place books in children's hands. Bring new and gently used books to our meetings, and we will share them with area-wide after-school programs. Not to worry if you only have adult books...bring gently used paperback book and we will donate them to our area USO for our service men and women to read.

Newspaper in Education (NIE) is a great opportunity to incorporate St. Louis news and learning in your classrooms. Contact the Post-Dispatch for scheduled workshops, and access to free newspapers for your students.

The Big Read is an outdoor book festival in Clayton to promote literacy. It is a great family event scheduled for October 11, 2008. Our organization will have a booth in the Kids Corner in which we will help children make bookmarks. See the Volunteers Needed article in this newsletter for how to volunteer to work at this event.

We will continue to collect soda can tab tops for the Ronald McDonald Houses. Continue to bring the tabs to our council meetings.

4. GLOBAL LITERACY

Collections for the Philippine Project and the Maya Project will continue at our meetings. Your contributions are making an impact in these under-served countries.

Special thanks for your support with these community projects!

HOW MUCH IS A PENNY A PAGE WORTH?

The Penny a Page Project last January collected \$6,541 in donations. Participants included 13 schools, 375 students, and 88,333 pages were read. Penny a Page is one of the literacy service projects sponsored by the St. Louis Suburban IRA Council. This project is a partnership with First Book –St. Louis, a nonprofit organization that provides free new books to disadvantaged children, encouraging early reading for at risk families. Students who participate help others by reading and earning a penny (or other amount) for each page read. Funds are used to provide grants to purchase books. We would like to thank the following schools for helping to make the project a success: Andrews Academy, Andrews Academy – Lake St. Louis, Bel Ridge, Crestwood, Ellisville, Kennerly, Lee-Hamilton, Mesnier, Rohan Woods, Rossman.

St. Louis Suburban IRA will support Penny a Page again this school year. The project will take place the week of January 18-24, 2009. If you would like to have your students participate, please complete the form below and return it to the address given. If you have any questions, please contact **Rose Mary Green** at 314-842-4299. The deadline for signing up is November 1st, but we would greatly appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yes, my students and I would like to participate in Penny a Page. (If you are signing up for the entire school, please attach a list of the teachers' first and last names, grade level, and number of students.)

Teacher's name _____ School _____ District _____

School Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Grade _____ Number of students _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Please send this form to **Rose Mary Green** 11860 Doverhill Court, Saint Louis, MO 63128-1520, email - rmgreen@midwest.net.

**Missouri State Council of the International Reading Association
October 2-4, 2008
Presents:**



For conference registration, hotel reservation and program details go to www.missourireading.org

Keynote & Featured Speakers:

Sharon Taberski - The Reading/Writing Connection
Sara Holbrook - Writing Poetry Across the Curriculum
Michael Sallinger - Memoir Mapping: story structure, tone, character development and descriptive
Harvey Daniels - Content Area Reading

Gail Boushey & Joan Moser - "The Two Sister", The Daily Five
Miriam P. Trehearn - Literacy Learning in Kindergarten to Grade 2

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT ST. LOUIS SUBURBAN COUNCIL

Have you ever wondered how to become more active in our council? We need volunteers to help with these various activities or positions. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions, please email Mary Jo Barker at barkermaryjo@rockwood.k12.mo.us.

- Volunteers are needed to write one article for the newsletter to tell our members about two or three useful web sites that you have found.
- Volunteers are needed to send a couple of tips that you have found to be successful for helping parents when they read to and/or with children. We are compiling a list to share with our members for use in school newsletters or when working with parents.
- A volunteer is needed to fill the position of Legislative Action Chairperson who keeps us informed on state and federal legislation that affect the field of education.
- Volunteers are needed to research the cost, work involved, benefits, and expertise needed to create a web site, blog, and/or message board for our council.
- Volunteers are needed for the Big Read, an outdoor book festival held in Clayton on October 11th. Members can sign up for one of the following two hour shifts to work in our booth: 9-11; 11-1; 1- 3; 3-5. More info on page 6.

St. Louis Suburban membership includes your membership to Missouri State Council of International Reading Association.

St. Louis Suburban Council

of the
International Reading Association

August 2008 - August 2009

Does not include membership in International Reading Association

Regular individual membership \$18.00 each person

Partners membership \$15.00 each person

2-4 individuals join together - Checks and applications from both partners must be mailed in together.

Literacy Team membership \$12.00 each person

5 or more individuals from one school join together - Checks and applications from all team members must be mailed in together.

Student or Retiree membership \$8.00 each person

Save \$3.00 each!

Save \$6.00 each
Or \$30.00 per team!

St. Louis Suburban Council IRA Membership Application

August 2008 - August 2009

All information with an * is required! If you do not have an email address, please indicate that on the form.

Last name* _____ First name* _____ Middle initial* _____

Home address* _____ City* _____ State* _____ Zip code* _____

(____) (____) _____
Home phone* Cell phone e-mail address* or check: I do not have an email address

School District if not retired* _____ School name if not retired* _____ School phone if not retired* _____

Position (Check any that apply)*
 _____ Pre K/Elementary Classroom Teacher _____ Classroom teacher _____ College Teacher
 _____ Jr. High/Middle School _____ Reading Specialist _____ College Student
 _____ Secondary _____ Literacy Coach _____ Retired
 _____ Administrator _____ Librarian _____ Other _____

Check Membership category and dues*
 _____ \$18 Regular Individual Membership
 _____ \$15 Partners Membership
 _____ \$12 Literacy Team Membership
 _____ \$ 8 Full time student or Retiree

_____ **New Member***
 (2008-2009 membership year)
 _____ **Renewal***
 _____ **New Address***

Are you a member of the International Reading Association? _____

If yes, please indicate your **IRA Membership number*** _____ Expiration date _____

If no, would you like to receive information about International Reading Association membership? Yes No
(Please circle)

Please make checks payable to **St. Louis Suburban IRA**

Mail to: 

Carol Kemper
IRA Membership Director
778 Cypress Knoll Dr.
O'Fallon, MO. 63368

Please join today!

ATTENTION
 _____ Please check if you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail rather than by U.S. Mail.
 E-mail address to which you would like your newsletter sent:

**St. Louis Suburban Council of the
International Reading Association
1194 Summit Meadows
Fenton, MO 63026**

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